

**From:** Cynthia Haven  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 7:43pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

28 January 2002

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To whom it may concern,

I cannot let the opportunity to pass for comment on the settlement with the Microsoft company pass without taking my opportunity to make some public comment. There are many out there who think this suit against Microsoft (aka Microshaft) is simply the vendetta of some bitter competitors. But the immoral, illegal, and greedy acts of Microsoft over the years have come at the cost to consumers of choice, innovation, and affordable software. They decided long ago that if they can't beat their competitors with better quality they would cheat them or beat them into submission.

There should not be an expiration date to this settlement, unless it is more than 30 years. Microsoft management has proven that they don't care about the rules and would be anxiously waiting in the wings for the next attack. They need to be punished for the wrong they have done to the American consumer. If they claim they have not stifled competition, why does Microsoft Office cost \$500 dollars. That is NOT a competitive price. I can buy the same functions in "Apple Works" for \$80. And why is it still so hard to get rid of Internet Explorer as your default browser? At work, I have to get technical assistance to change it. And why, as I just found out, that the default search engine for IE is MSN (as in Microsoft Network). Try seeing how intuitive it is to pick another search engine, like Google, which is much better. Fortunately, at home, I have chosen to use non-Microsoft products, even if it costs me money. This is, however, something Microsoft presumes most people won't do, and they are usually right.

Microsoft is not a group of school boys to be slapped on the hand with a promise not to misbehave again. They are corrupt, greedy, selfish jerks with nobody's interest but their own here. The public is not passive about this situation. We want fair play and true competition based on market rules and true innovation. Not marketing gimmicks and coercion.

I applaud the Justice Department in their efforts to resolve this situation, but Microsoft should have no mechanisms to revive their evil ways. The settlement should be strict and long lasting, not 5 years, or we will be in this same situation again.

Sincerely,

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